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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1912.

LORD LISTER.

At a banquet given some years ago to Joseph Lister, the first surgeon to be related to the British peerage, and who has just died, one of the speakers addressed him as follows:

"My lord, it is not a profession, it is not a nation; it is humanity itself which, with uncovered head, salutes you."

No more deserved tribute was ever paid to a member of the medical profession—indeed, to any other man. It is not going too far to say. Through his discovery of the antiseptic system of surgery, resultant from study and investigation to the end of reducing the terrible mortality from surgical wounds, thousands upon thousands of lives have been saved, infinite suffering in thousands upon thousands of other cases where the knife was resorted to has been prevented, and operations have been rendered practicable and comparatively safe which before this vindication of antisepticism, the boldest and most skillful surgeon would not have dared to essay.

No amount of eulogy could compass the debt of gratitude humanity owes to Lord Lister.

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF BIRDS.

The Game Commission of Pennsylvania recently published a report which should be read by every farmer in this State, and incidentally by every member of the General Assembly. In it Professor Surface, the State zoologist, says: "Birds are the great equalizers between insect life and vegetation," and that in his opinion this world would not be inhabited by man in ten years if insects were permitted to increase unchecked. And this opinion is entertained by every scientist who has given thought to the subject.

Dr. Warren, another Pennsylvania zoologist, says: "The great majority of young birds, while in the nest, are fed upon insect life, each one of them consuming daily an amount of animal food in the shape of insects equal to and frequently exceeding their own weight." Assuming this statement to be correct, it would allow a single bird to the acre in Virginia, that bird consuming not less than 150 bugs or insects each day, a conservative calculation will show that the birds of this State consume about 14,000 bushels each day, allowing 200,000 insects to the bushel.

No one attempts to say that our birds alone are responsible for this curbing of insect life, but every authority says: "Birds are great workers in this direction and are worthy of protection in every way possible."

Dr. Hornaday says: "Every one of these perching birds is worth its weight in gold to the farmer. It will indeed be a sad day for the American agriculturist when the last insect-destroying bird is brought fluttering to the ground. Then, if never before, will he appreciate the value of the wiles he has lost forever. Then, when it is too late, will he be willing to exchange any quantity of berries or cherries for just one pair of living robins, catbirds or other birds, so despised and neglected to-day."

Dr. T. S. Palmer, assistant chief of the Biological Survey, who has twice appeared before our Legislature this year, and whose duty it is to investigate and examine into the daily damage of birds from an economic standpoint, says: "Each family of birds, almost without exception, is doing a work peculiar to itself, a special work that is of great value to the farmers and fruit growers of the nation."

"Without special consideration we do not begin to realize the possibilities of insect increase. Many species increase so rapidly as to astound even the most calculating. . . . The value of the life work of birds, from an economic standpoint, entitles almost every family of birds found in this State to some degree of protection, some of them to continuous protection from one year's end to the other; some of them, our game birds, to partial protection, because through the taking of the latter comes a value that cannot be expressed in words or figures and that far exceeds the value of their continuous life work as measured in dollars and cents."

The foregoing quotations are all taken from the writings of scientists, public servants whose opinions should not be lightly rejected. Will the present General Assembly fail to recognize the significance of such facts and throw away the opportunity of conservation which the Moncure-Rutherford bill presents?

TAFT AS A VOTE-GETTER.

Some of those Western Governors who have been pow-wowing in Chicago regard Mr. Roosevelt as a very remarkable vote-getter, but is he? The World shows that the records "do not sustain their theory," despite Mr. Roosevelt's unprecedented popular plurality in 1901.

An overwhelming majority think that the coming election will be decided in

the States of New York, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri.

In 1901 Roosevelt polled 539,513 votes in New York; in 1908 Taft polled 570,076.

In 1904 Roosevelt polled 600,955 votes in Ohio; in 1908 Taft polled 572,312.

In 1901 Roosevelt polled 368,289 votes in Indiana; in 1908 Taft polled 318,992.

In 1901 Roosevelt polled 632,645 votes in Illinois; in 1908 Taft polled 629,929.

In 1904 Roosevelt polled 321,445 votes in Missouri; in 1908 Taft polled 347,502.

Mr. Roosevelt, be it remembered, was running against Judge Parker, who, the World declares, "proved to be the weakest candidate the Democrats ever nominated for President." Mr. Taft ran against Mr. Bryan, who polled more votes than ever before cast for a Democratic presidential candidate. In the five States mentioned, Mr. Bryan in 1900 polled 2,315,825 votes, but Judge Parker, four years later, polled only 1,926,518. That shows that 386,317 Democrats in these States who supported Bryan in 1900 refused to support Judge Parker in 1901. Despite this immense advantage in the matter of an opponent, Mr. Roosevelt in 1901 received only 12,434 more votes than Mr. Taft in 1908.

These are the facts. They do not go well with the much-vaunted power of Mr. Roosevelt as a vote-getter.

AN AFRICAN ROOIBACK.

And now it is the Dark Continent, or, to be more specific, the lower part of it, to which the sensation mongers would direct the world's attention as involving prospectively the next great diplomatic, if not physical, conflict. Right on the heel of the news of Lord Lister's supposedly peace mission to Berlin come semi-editorial dispatches from London prophesying a resounding clash between Great Britain and Germany over the division of the Portuguese colonial possessions in Africa, for the acquisition of which, in part, or in whole, both powers, it is asserted, are striving. "This time," says one of these dispatches, "Germany and England will come face to face; each will be fighting her own battle, not that of her friends and allies, as in the Moroccan and the Bosnia and Herzegovina cases." It is admitted that Great Britain is probably prepared to cede to Germany Walvisch Bay, the relations of which to the development of German and Portuguese Southwest Africa we have described in a previous article touching on this subject; but we are told by the alarmists that this is an inconsiderable factor of the problem. It is over the Portuguese domain in Southeast Africa, we are informed, that the "fierce" controversy is to rage.

In order to a clear understanding of the why and the wherefore of such a prediction and of the respective interests of the two powers in that quarter, it is essential to grasp these facts: Portugal's East African holdings are bounded on the south and west by British South Africa, and on the north by German East Africa. Here Portugal occupies the same position relatively towards British South Africa that Germany does to the latter in Southwest Africa. In the Portuguese East African area there are two most valuable ports, Delagoa Bay, on which Great Britain has an option, and through which the Boers received most of the military supplies they accumulated in preparation for the Anglo-Boer War, and Beira, a little further south, the acquisition of which by Great Britain would also afford her South African colonies an outlet to the sea through British territory.

The contention of the alarmists and "great storm" forecasters is that Great Britain could not and would not allow these posts to pass into Germany's hands, since that would be suicidal; hence she could not consent to a division with Germany. On the other hand, Germany, it is held, could not agree to a partitioning which would leave them under British control, as to do so would render the value of any hinterland she could purchase comparatively negligible. Consequently, it is argued, Great Britain must logically have all of Portuguese East Africa, or oppose its passing out of Portugal's possession—in short, it is contended that division is impracticable.

But there is another and a decidedly optimistic side to the question, which is set forth in a very thoughtful article in a no less conservative paper than the London Spectator. That contemporary not only thinks that a satisfactory adjustment between the two great parties in interest is practicable, but urges Portugal to sell to Germany. "We have no doubt whatever," it declares, "that it would be greatly to the benefit of the world if Germany could acquire the African colonies of Portugal; or, to put it more correctly, that portion of those colonies over which we do not possess the right of pre-emption—a right which belongs to us in the matter of Delagoa Bay." And again, "In our opinion, though we cannot put any unfair pressure upon Portugal, or threaten to desert her if she does not fall in with the suggestion of Germany, we hold that we might very well advise her that it would be to her true interests to accept generous terms from Germany in regard to Mozambique and Angola (Southwest Portuguese Africa), and from ourselves in regard to Delagoa Bay and Beira."

We might, with due regard to our ancient tradition of friendship, point out to Portugal that she may never be in as good a position again for effecting a transfer of her colonies." In the Spectator's view and advice—and in there, in a measure, are reflected the views and advice and the friendly advances to Germany of other leading British papers, some of them pretty close to the government—there is certainly no evidence that Great Britain

is prepared to do "fierce" battle with Germany, and bring on another crisis, over the Anglo-German relations in the Dark Continent.

Upon recognition of what the Spectator implies that Great Britain is prepared to concede in the matter of continuance of Germany to her South African colonies, it will readily be perceived that she is disposed to be exceedingly generous, and to meet Germany more than half way, her natural and defensible desire to command Delagoa Bay and Beira none the less. Especially is this made manifest—there is promise of adjustment without a "fierce" conflict, either diplomatic or physical—when it is stated that there is a possibility of a compromise touching the important ports in issue, by which Germany, in times of peace, at least, will be accorded coveted and liberal commercial rights. It would seem, therefore, that the only conclusion competent to be drawn from the situation and the prospect—from the equation of the whole matter—is that the alarmists' forebodings are little, if anything, more than a sort of African rooiback.

THE SOLDIER CITIZEN.

In his plea for a popularization of the army, Secretary of War Stimson, in his recent speech before the National Civic Federation, proposes the most practical as well as the most psychological plan for increasing the efficiency of the American soldier. A great deal has been written of the heroism and fighting ability which the volunteer soldier possesses, and upon his qualities as a citizen are largely based his military capabilities.

Mr. Stimson said in part: "The great work of the future is to popularize the army. The theory of the army generally held is old and obsolete. We think of the soldier in the regular army as a specialist and a professional man. That is the idea that goes back to the army of Frederick the Great and his professional fighters. Such a conception is inconsistent now with our other ideas of government. We should take an example from the country of Switzerland. There the army is held as a school of patriotism. It is believed that men should go into it long enough to learn their duty and then go back to civil life. We should look forward to such a system here. It would raise the personnel of the army and give us a certain number of trained men who could be relied upon in case of war."

The tendency in the navy has been to make use of the men in industrial as well as in professional activities. An encouragement of civilian qualities would produce a more effective instrument of defense and do away with much of the stagnant influence which is found so often among mere professional soldiers.

In another column a correspondent makes a timely and popular suggestion to the effect that in some way the titles of Tetrastizini's encores to-morrow night be announced to the audience before the diva sings them. Heretofore it has been impossible for lovers of good music, not themselves musicians, to ascertain the titles of encores or from what operas they come or by what composers they were written. Such an innovation here would greatly enhance the pleasure of the concert for the very many who are without the pale of musical knowledge. In this way the musical learning of the uninitiated will be greatly increased, and one can much more intelligently shout "Brava, Tetrastizini!" The suggestion is an eminently good one and one in the interests of the music-loving public. A similar idea it would be well to carry out in the Wednesday Club concerts.

Upholding the majesty of the law as he should do, Governor Foss, of Massachusetts, refuses to keep Richard from the chair. A just punishment will be suffered by a foul and unnatural murderer, who used the cloth of God as a cloak to shield the deeds of a hideous criminal.

A new kind of fancy dance every day. Now it is the "angloworm wiggle."

This ought to be a heavy mail day for bachelors. It's St. Valentine's and Leap Year as well.

The score of delegates so far elected to the Republican National Convention: Taft, 16; Roosevelt, 9, but even 10 I don't land Bryan.

A. B. Cummings, presidential candidate, at least has made a good alphabetical start.

Mail your valentine early.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Unsigned Letters.
There are queries without real name from N. X. N. H. M. Clara and B. N. L. The best answer we can give will be sent or inserted here if the querist will give real name. Any other may be added for publication.

A Token.
I have a medal about the size of a 5-cent piece. On one side is a palm tree and a cannon and sun rays, with fourteen stars, and the motto: "No Submission to the North." On the other side are the words: "The Wealth of the South" and "Rice, Tobacco, Sugar, Cotton," and a cluster of plants. Please tell me what it is. The date is 1850.

The medal is not found in any list to which we have access. It was struck to commemorate some incident tending towards the disruption of 1851, and we hope some reader can inform us just what it was.

Liquor and Politics.
What is the cost of a liquor license in Richmond now? Has it been changed in the past three years? What is about the number of votes cast in elections in Richmond?

CONSTANT READER.

WASHINGTON

By Roy K. Moulton

Whiskers in Washington.

Washington, February 13.

Dear Editor:

The Congressmen do not look half as handsome in a group without the customary opy house stage effects as they do individually when they make their campaign speeches. They are not nearly so distinguished looking as the pictures we so often see accompanying their testimonials for patent medicine. A composite picture of the House or Representatives would not produce an Apollo Belvedere.

The bird's-eye view from the press gallery presents a startling array of haircuts and whiskers. It is perfectly apparent that a good many of the statesmen met by on their hair. Those who do not try to look like Daniel Webster make a frantic effort to impersonate, from a hirsute standpoint at least, Benjamin Franklin or John A. Logan.

One statesman, as seen from the House press gallery, has a bald spot about the size of a silver dollar, and surrounding it is a mop of Titian hair. The effect reminds one of a cross between an Italian sunset and the Japanese national flag. I am told that he has been elected on the strength of his hair for five terms.

There are some members who apparently do not depend upon haircuts at all. There is, for instance, Alex. Roosevelt's husband. The hair that Nick hasn't got would fill enough mattresses to enable the entire standing army to lie down and take a comfortable sleep. There is also Ollie James, of Kentucky, who, it is said, posed for the "before" half of the original "before and after" hair restorer ad. These two bald spots are the most famous in the House, inasmuch as they both cover every square inch of available territory. Gifford Pinchot should look into this matter along with the forests, for in some cases the House is badly in need of the conservation of hair.

The other bald spots that we noticed range from the 16-cent size up to a dollar and a dollar-and-a-half size. Congressman McCall strikes a happy average with one that is about the size of a teacup. This seems to be the popular size at this session.

I can hardly depart from the subject without the all-important mention of whiskers. Statesmanship and whiskers have so long been associated together that the mention of one recalls the other. Just as one always thinks of sauce in connection with eggs or applesauce in connection with hot water, they range all the way from the ponderous lace curtains of Uncle Warren Kiefer, of Ohio, to the unobtrusive and gentlemanly Nannie goat variety such as dangles from the chin of Washington Gardner, of Michigan, or Uncle Cy Sulloway, of New Hampshire. Whiskers they have in every style, some of them waiting for Bryan to be elected President before they can be removed. From all indications here, however, they will continue to disfigure the landscape indefinitely.

The press gallery is so called because the correspondents are pressed in like sardines. They sit on little round stools, for all the world as though they were just about to order coffee and sinkers. The correspondents can overlook the entire House from their gallery, and it is often necessary to overlook a great deal.

The trade reports do not state precisely what the principal business of this town is, but from what I have been able to observe while I have been about collecting impressions, it is the barbering business. Whenever anybody in Washington doesn't have anything in particular to do for a few days he starts a barber shop. There are seven in one block on Pennsylvania Avenue, and it is a short block at that.

The barbers here are great hands to make friends. They are snapping new acquaintances every day. In the basement of the hotel which has the honor of entertaining me at the very reasonable expense of \$7 a day there is a barber. Can you believe it? He can say that there are not all kinds of barbers in Washington? The customers of this one-armed barber have to hold their own faces when he shaves them.

I don't know how he lost the other arm, but he cut it off while he was shaving Abraham Lincoln. Every barber in Washington has shaved Abraham Lincoln and U. S. Grant, and I struck one the other day who shaved George Grant and Roosevelt all in one hour. He would also have shaved George Washington and Thomas Jefferson the same day, but they were out of town. That was very unfortunate, as this barber was trying to make a record that particular day. The man who shaves himself loses a lot of fun here.

Voice of the People

Announce the Encores.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir:—It has been repeatedly noted in the press that Tetrastizini's encores to-morrow night be announced to the audience before the diva sings them. Heretofore it has been impossible for lovers of good music, not themselves musicians, to ascertain the titles of encores or from what operas they come or by what composers they were written. Such an innovation here would greatly enhance the pleasure of the concert for the very many who are without the pale of musical knowledge. In this way the musical learning of the uninitiated will be greatly increased, and one can much more intelligently shout "Brava, Tetrastizini!" The suggestion is an eminently good one and one in the interests of the music-loving public. A similar idea it would be well to carry out in the Wednesday Club concerts.

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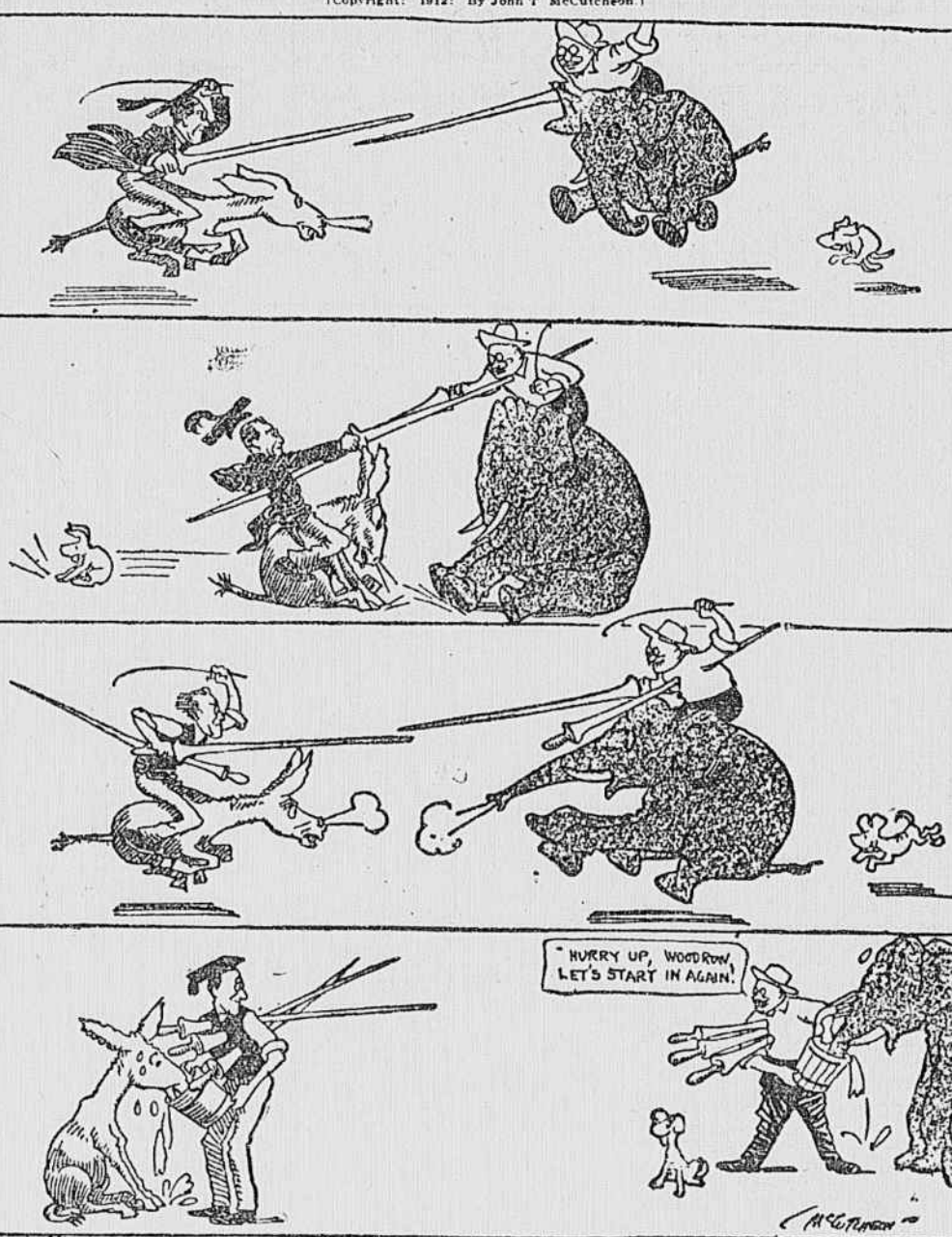
CONSTANT READER.

WHEN IMMORTAL MEETS IMMORTAL.

(Both Col. Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson have been included in the list of forty American immortals.)

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1912, by John T. McCutcheon.)



"HURRY UP, WOODROW! LET'S START AGAIN!"

management, it shall be made known to the audience what she is about to sing in response to the call. The regular numbers, of course, appear on the printed program, but I am fully persuaded that there are many like me who, while they enjoy great music, are not themselves musicians, and it would add greatly to their pleasure if they knew just what they were hearing. I should like to see something of the same kind adopted at the Wednesday Club concert.

CHATMAN.

Justice to the Veterans.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir:—I see that Mr. Throckmorton, of the House of Delegates, has introduced a resolution to have a bond issue of \$500,000 for pensioning "Confederate soldiers."

Mr. Throckmorton should be crowned with "a crown of jewels." Nearly all candidates for office in Virginia when running tell their constituents that they are in favor of doing great things for the old Confederates. Now let us see what they will do.

The heroes followed Lee and fought for that which they did not think was right, but that which they knew was right, they are receiving a pension, which is the opinion of many, is discreditable to Virginia.

We spent annually thousands of dollars on public schools and roads—the old soldiers were made the pensioners. Give them a pension, such a one as is due them, or do away with the present sham. The one given them now would not give them the smallest quantity of cornbread and salt meat with a few herrings thrown in occasionally.

In a few years at the longest they will cross the river to join that "innumerable caravan that moves in that mysterious realm above." Virginia is able and the masses are willing to do the right thing by them. Let the few "grand old soldiers" that are left enjoy the money they are getting, and let the State make them comfortable and happy.

Mohemenco.

The Antislavery League and the Senate.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir:—I find the following in the news columns of yesterday's number of your excellent journal:

"The Senate was made the battleground, and it was there that the Antislavery League and the opposition generally understood that the Virginia lost in the September primaries on this issue."

Whatever may have been true of the "opposition" in its contest for the State Senate, it is quite certain that the Antislavery League did not make any "concentrated effort to get control of that body." True to the known traditions the Antislavery League carefully abstained from going actively into the campaign in any "concentrated" effort to elect individuals favorable to the League.

In a few places the loyal constituents questioned the candidates, and in some instances received favorable answers. The matter was left to the dry constituency, was elected by party, and the Antislavery League and the common honesty of the individual representatives.

It did not occur to the leaders of the Antislavery League that Senators or Representatives, elected by the untruthful or overwhelmingly, or even predominantly dry, would be, or could be, induced by any consideration to disavow their people and support a Richmond institution that had been established home.

So far from "concentrating" its efforts on the Senate, the league concentrated its efforts on the people, stimulating them to vote for the League, and educating them in the politics of the league. The leaders of the league went everywhere preaching the ennobling act of preparatory or State-wide prohibition.

Every man who was elected to either the House or the Senate by a dry constituency was elected by a party, and the Antislavery League, in fact, understood platform that involved the giving the people the right to vote for State-wide prohibition. And every delegate and every Senator accepted a seat in the Legislature of Virginia from a constituency that has voted for prohibition.

It is no possible evasion of the dilemma.

To say or imply that the league

lost" is pure assumption. The fact is, against all controversy, that the majority of Delegates and Senators represent dry constituencies, and constituencies that perfectly well understood the issue at stake.

The league won in the September primaries, notwithstanding the "understanding" of the enemies of the enabling act. Three-fourths of the people live in parts of the State that have outlawed the saloon. Three-fourths of the members of the Legislature in both houses represent dry constituencies. The people of those sections and counties understood the demand for the enabling act as a prime issue in the campaign.

If three-fourths of the members of the Legislature in both houses properly represent their people, they will vote for the enabling act. That's how the temperance people "understand" the situation.

J. H. LIGHT.

Antislavery League Headquarters, Richmond.

Non-Freezing Fire Plugs.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir:—Isn't it about time that Richmond was putting in non-freezing fire plugs? If not in the whole city, then at least in the business section. I have no information as to how many cities are equipped with them, but I would suppose that Richmond is the only city of any size in the Atlantic States from here North, that is not equipped with non-freezing fire plugs. Richmond has not yet had her great conflagration, but it will come sooner or later, and there is no telling when a frozen fire plug will cost the city of Richmond its business section.

At the Birmingham fire and at all of the fires of yesterday, the fire plugs were frozen, and while other winters have not been as severe as this one, still the plugs freeze in severe spells every winter. This matter is fully serious to merit your interest, and it is hoped that you will follow the matter up and not drop it until something along this line has been accomplished.

Richmond.

X.

Women Interested in Politics.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir:—As one who heard every word that fell from Dr. Alderman's lips during the seven-hour debate of the coordinate college bill, and who carefully marked every expression of the speaker's face, every gesture of his hand, every tone of his voice, may I say just this?

If ever man spoke with perfect control of temper, but with a heart aflame with passion for right, for justice, for

truth, it was Dr. Alderman on that memorable occasion. His plea was more than brilliant; it was noble. It was an inspiration; not merely an inspiration, but an inspiration, but as the right of a man standing firmly on principle as he sees it, on right as he sees it, and standing unshaken, though the opinion of his dearest friend, his most valuable supporter, may be the forfeit.

It was the inspiration of witnessing with the natural eye the spiritual spectacle of a human soul passing through testing fire and coming out pure gold. It was an experience which this witness can never forget.

FAIR PLAY.

A Lime Bill Sidelight.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir:—On the train to-day en route to Boston I was informed that the Legislature of Virginia had passed a bill whereby it went into manufacturing the ground limestone in competition with private enterprise. For the last three months I have been prospecting the State of Virginia for Boston capitalists with a view to establishing a cement plant. If the policy of the State is to enter into competition with private enterprise I will have to advise my people against investing in the State.

RICHARD K. GRIMSLEY,
Consulting Engineer.
Washington.

Ryan, Not Dryan.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir:—In my place that appeared in your issue of February 9 last, where I said "Still we have the Wasp, Mr. Taft, or that Dr. Harmon (who will suit the Richmond class of Democrats), or that great Dr. who will not advocate the prosecution of trusts and pack the courts, and then write to 'My dear Mr. Harriman or My dear Mr. Ryan.' You have 'My dear Mr. Harmon and my dear Mr. Bryan,' which destroys its sense."

P. L. JONES.

Dauntless Daughters of Virginia.

Oh, Fair Daughters of Virginia! Honored to you one and all
Who have borne aloft the banners and have answered to the call.
In the annals of the future glorious will they with your names appear—
Yours the courage of conviction, yours the hearts that know no fear.

Know no fear the criticisms fall upon you thick and fast.
In the cause of Woman's Suffrage all your fortunes have you cast.
Noble women, onward, upward, tho' the victory may be far,
Dauntless Daughters of Virginia, you've enlisted for the war.

I, a working woman, laud you and your praises would proclaim,
And your leaders each night I name, will they do you honor—always.
Lewis, Boshier, Valentine, And our fearless writer, Johnston, who has pledged her wondrous powers
To the cause of Woman's Suffrage—will the victory never be won?
Richmond.

MRS. D. M. T.

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